

XV.—*On the Type-specimen of Chloëphaga inornata* King in the British Museum, and some further notes. By F. E. BLAAUW, C.M.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(Plate XIII.)

I HAVE always deplored the fact that the very appropriate name *Chloëphaga dispar* for the black-banded Goose of southern South America was altered by Salvadori in the 'Catalogue of Birds' into *C. inornata*.

Being in London in September last I took the opportunity, kindly afforded me by Mr. Chubb, of having a look at the type of *Chloëphaga inornata* of King, which is responsible for the alteration of the name of *C. dispar* into *C. inornata*. The result is that I find that this specimen of King's is *not* an individual of the South American black-banded Goose (*C. dispar*) but a *young male* of *Chloëphaga magellanica* in its first plumage and not quite full-grown. I have bred during a great many years dozens of *C. dispar* and of *C. magellanica*, and have invariably found that the young males of the black-banded Goose (*C. dispar*) are transversely banded on the under side quite as much as an adult male of this species, although the bands are not so clearly defined. The head is also much greyer.

The young males of *C. magellanica* are white on the under side with only occasional black spots, which are chiefly or most marked on the sides. The specimen of King which is responsible for the alteration of the name of *C. dispar* into *C. inornata*, is a bird which is white on the under side with a few black spots, which are chiefly on the sides. There is not the slightest doubt that this is a specimen of *C. magellanica* in its first plumage.

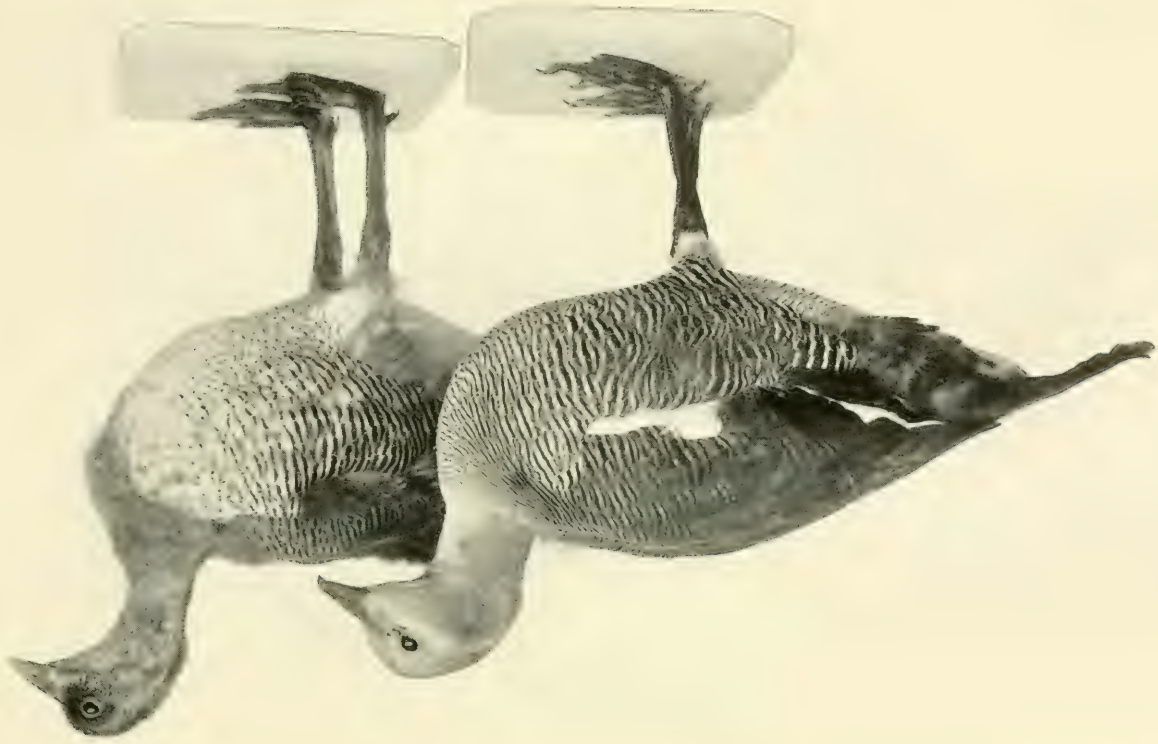
The wing-speculum is *not* glossy green in this specimen, but dull brownish grey, which again proves that it is a bird in its first plumage. During the first autumn of their life the geese of the genus *Chloëphaga* (and most other geese as well) moult all their feathers except the large flight-feathers, which are retained until the second moult. During the first moult they acquire the glossy green wing-speculum.

In the male *C. magellanica* the white of the under side extends itself at each successive moult, whilst the male *C. dispar* remains banded until extreme old age.

My conclusion is that the type-specimen of King being a young male of *C. magellanica* and not of *C. dispar*, the black-banded Goose ought to be again named *C. dispar*, whilst the name of *inornata* King ought to be put under the synonyms of *C. magellanica*. I show a photo of a specimen of a male *C. dispar* in its first plumage and one of a male *C. magellanica* also in its first plumage, but slightly younger, so that the grey down still adheres to the neck- and head-feathers. Both birds were bred by me and are now in the Leiden Museum.

I also examined Des Murs's descriptions of *Bernicla magellanica* and *B. inornata* in Claudio Gay's 'Historia de Chile' (fauna) on page 443. The description given there of *Bernicla magellanica* male and female agrees with what these birds look like; but the description of what he calls *Bernicla inornata* in the two sexes is applicable, as regards the male, to a male of *C. magellanica* with more heavily marked flanks than the bird he calls *B. magellanica*, probably a bird after the first moult. (In this description he does *not* mention the grey wing-coverts on which the black and white markings of the upper side are.) It certainly is *not* a male of *C. dispar*, as he says that it is white with black markings on the flanks, *C. dispar* having no white under side but the whole of the under side banded. The bird which he describes as a female is certainly a specimen of *C. poliocephala*. He describes the head and neck as grey, the belly as white, and on the whole gives a rather accurate description of *C. poliocephala*. Des Murs in Gay's 'Historia de Chile' has, therefore, described two species (*C. magellanica* Gmel. 1788, and *C. poliocephala*) as male and female under the name of *inornata*.

The name of *inornata* would therefore, I believe, have to stand for *C. poliocephala* if he had not applied this name to two species of birds, which makes it desirable to drop it entirely and use that of *C. poliocephala* Gr. 1844, as is usually done.



CHLOEPHAGA DISPAR. C. MAGELLANICA.

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